

THE LANCASTER NEWS

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ARMY GIVEN

FREE RANGE

Administration Stands Squarely Behind Sending Cavalry to Mexico.

NO PERMISSION ASKED

Troops Cross Border in Pursuit of Outlaw Band.

Washington, March 9.—Washington stands squarely behind Col. Slocum in sending cavalry into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws, who raided Columbus, N. M., to-day, murdering American soldiers and citizens and firing the town.

Secretary Lansing to-night informed the de facto Government of Mexico, through E. Arredondo, its ambassador designate here, that he trusted no objection would be made to the action of the American troops, they having followed what is known in military circles as a "hot trail." No orders have been issued for the return of the soldiers, and it is not probable any will be issued for the present.

Shocked indignation occasioned by news of Villa's outrage was quickly succeeded by undisguised satisfaction in official and congressional circles over the knowledge that, after three years of patient forbearance, United States troops actually were on Mexican soil to avenge the death of their comrades and bring to justice the outlaws whose depredations have terrorized Americans on both sides of the border.

Reports that the American troops were in action to-night probably fifteen miles south of the border against a much larger force of bandits were heard with anxious interest in official circles. Five troops of cavalry crossed the border early in the day. At a late hour to-night it was not known officially just where they were or just what account they had given of themselves.

While no formal word of the policy of the administration was out, it was reliably stated that the army would be given free rein to catch the bandits if possible. It was not considered in administration circles that Col. Slocum's act in any sense constituted an invasion of Mexico, a policy which the administration has opposed in the past, and will continue to oppose.

The state department at first had planned to ask permission of the Carranza government to send troops across the border in pursuit of the outlaw band. Then came official word that the cavalry had already crossed. Later Mr. Arredondo called upon Secretary Lansing, expressed regret for the Villa raid and was informed of the attitude of the United States. Mr. Arredondo said he would communicate with Gen. Carranza immediately.

The Mexican Question Flares Up in Congress.

Washington, March 9.—The Mexican question broke out in Congress late to-day. Senator Fall, of New Mexico, announced to-day that he had prepared a resolution to authorize recruiting of a army of 500,000 to intervene in Mexico and authorizing authorities to stamp out brigandage, while in the House, Representative Mondell, republican, of Wyoming, started a debate with a speech attacking the Administration's Mexican policy.

MORE WEST POINT CADETS

Proposed in Bill Introduced by Senator Chamberlain.

Washington, March 9.—More cadets at West Point, by having the president appoint enlisted men, are proposed by a bill introduced to-day by Chairman Chamberlain, one of the senate military committee. One would be chosen for each regiment of the mobile army and the equivalent unit of other organizations.

CARRANZA'S GOVERNMENT REGRETS RAID BY VILLA

Foreign Minister Davalos Asks Americans to Remember Villa Is an Outlaw.

Mexico City, March 9.—"My government sincerely regrets this affair and asks the American people to be patient," said Marcelino Davalos, foreign minister of the Cabinet, in a statement to the Associated Press to-day.

"The government asks the American people to remember that Villa is a common enemy," he continued, "and an outlaw to be hunted down by all men. The Mexican government will use the most vigorous means to run this man to earth and avenge his horrible acts."

It is stated unofficially that Gen. Trevino, with a large force, already is in pursuit of Villa.

Senor Davalos said he had communicated by telegraph with Gen. Carranza and that the general later would make a full statement to the American people.

FIELD DAY NOTES.

Rules for the Guidance of Contestant.

All committees will appear in the next issue of the Lancaster News. Be sure to watch the paper for information.

Map drawing paper 12x18-in. to be furnished each each contestant.

Any contestant for the U. D. C. medals may get information or help from the teacher, but the final writing of essay must be done without help in the presence of teacher.

Robinson-Lathan company is going to present to the rural school scoring the greatest number of points, "Field Day", a beautiful Sterling Silver Cup, yet and the honor of winning such a trophy will be well worth the effort of any community. The winner of this cup means that you are the banner rural school of the county for 1916.

The points to be counted are as follows:

Classes A, B, and C spelling 5, 4 and 3 respectively.

Classes A, B and C map drawing 5, 4 and 3 respectively.

Classes A, B and C upper and lower sections, 5, 4, 3 and 2 respectively.

Classes A, B and C upper and lower sections, 5, 4, 3 and 2 respectively.

Classes A and B composition, 5 and 4 respectively.

Class C story telling 3.

Class A domestic art contests 1 and 4. Three points each and contests 2 and 3 two points each.

Class B domestic art contest 1, three points and contests 2, 3 and 4, two points each.

Class C contests 1 and 2; 3 and 2 points respectively.

Household Science:

Class A each contest 2 points.

Class B contest 1, 3 points; 2 and 3 each 2 points.

Class C each contest 2 points.

Manual Training:

Class A axe handle 3 points, other contests 2 each.

Class B each contest 2 points.

Class C each contest 2 points.

U. D. C. gold medal 10 points; silver medal 5 points.

Exhibits:

Best Rural, 10 points; best town, 7 points.

All other exhibits are to count from 1 to 5 points, graded by exhibit committee. All who win second place in any contest score one point for their school.

Declamations and Recitation:

Classes A, B and C count 5, 4 and 3 respectively.

Athletics:

Relay and half-mile races 4 points each.

100-yard dash for girls and the 75 yard dashes for boys and running high jump, each 3 points.

The 2 50-yard dashes, baseball throw, both running and standing broad jumps and apple race, each 2 points.

Upon the above rating will be given a beautiful "banner" to the school of the county making highest score (open to all schools).

As the "trophy cup" goes to the banner rural school so the "banner" will go to the banner county school.

V. A. Lingle,

C. S. E.

AMERICAN TOWN RAIDED BY BANDITS

UNITED STATES TROOPS PURSUE AND ATTACK MEXICANS OVER BORDER

MEXICANS ON MISSION OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION POUNCE UPON TOWN AND SUCCEED FOR MOMENT IN EFFORT BUT PAY DEARLY FOR WILD DEEDS.

Columbus, N. M., March 9.—Francisco Villa, outlawed Mexican bandit, raided United States territory to-day. With 500 men he attacked Columbus, killed at least 16 Americans and fired many buildings before he was driven back across the international border.

Not less than 250 troopers of the Thirteenth United States Cavalry followed the Villa band into Mexico. Reports to Col. H. J. Slocum, commanding United States troops at this point, late to-day stated that Villa had made a stand 15 miles south of the border where spirited fighting ensued. In this engagement an unnamed private was killed and Capt. George Williams, adjutant of the of the Thirteenth Cavalry, was wounded.

The small detachment of troopers under Major Frank Tompkins and Elmer Linsley, fighting dismounted, made a determined stand against the renewed Villa attack and at last reports were holding their ground.

The raid on American territory proved costly to the bandit chieftain. The bodies of 18 bandits, including Pablo Lopez, second in command, had been gathered and burned before noon and troopers reported an undetermined number of dead still lying in the brush. Led to the attack under the slogan:

"Death to the Americans," Villa's followers fought with desperation. Just before dawn they crept along ditches skirting the United States cavalry camp and rushed the sleeping town, firing heavily.

The first volley brought American troopers into almost instant action. While a portion of the raiders engaged the cavalry, others began applying the torch and shooting American civilians who ventured from the buildings. Lights in homes and public building immediately became targets for snipers posted at Villa's direction. Other bandits creeping close to American homes, enticed a number of civilians into the open with English spoken invitations. A number of fatalities are attributed to this ruse.

Stores were looted, oil was poured upon frame structures, and the match applied by still other bandits. The postoffice was raided, furniture smashed, but the looters secured only one small registered package.

The casualties of the Thirteenth Cavalry in the fighting at Columbus were several killed and six wounded.

Villa's total losses in the day's fight were estimated in excess of 100 killed and twice as many wounded. The American pursuit into Mexico, which ended about 2 o'clock, was reported to have accounted for more than 75 Mexicans killed and wounded.

The American losses on the Mexican side was one corporal slain when Villa threw out a heavy guard to engage the pursuing American troopers.

Of the eight American civilians slain here, Charles Dewitt Miller, of Albuquerque and Dr. J. H. Hart, of El Paso, were burned to death in the fire that destroyed the Commercial hotel.

The body of Walton Walker, a Sunday school convention delegate, from Playas, N. M., who was shot to death with W. T. Richie, proprietor of the hotel, also was incinerated.

The Mexicans set the hotel on fire, together with a number of other buildings and posted snipers to pick off Americans as they fled.

Mrs. M. James was shot and killed in the doorway of another hotel from which she was running with her sister, Mrs. James fell dying over the body of C. C. Miller, who had been driven from his drug store across the street. Her sister, a child not yet in her teens escaped the fusillade without a scratch. Mrs. James' husband was wounded.

Mrs. S. T. Ryan, wife of the captain of troop E, and Capt. Rudolph Smyser of troop H, with Mrs. Smyser and her little children had narrow escapes from the bandits. The Ryan house fronts regimental headquarters and the ditch up along which Villa troops came. It was riddled with bullets.

Mrs. Ryan was in bed in line with a front window facing the ditch in which Villa opened the attack. Bullets shattered the glass and struck through her clothing arranged on a chair near the bed.

Fred Griffin, private of K troop was on sentry duty and opened fire on a party of Mexicans attacking the quarters of Lieut. John P. Lucas, commanding the machine gun troop of the Thirteenth cavalry. Griffin fell mortally wounded under a volley of bullets, but killed two Mexicans and then crawled to the side of the Ryan home. Mrs. Ryan, arising, ran around the side of the house under fire of the Mexicans to an adobe garage. A party of bandits was standing about Griffin. She opened the garage when a Mexican grasped her arm and demanded where she was going. She answered calmly that she was going into the building to get a motor car. The Mexican let her go and during the fight in the camp she remained in the automobile unhurt.

Every piece of furniture in the Ryan home was riddled.

The Smyser home, north of the track, was surrounded in front and both sides by bandits before a shot was fired. Captain Smyser heard someone tell the Mexicans that an American army officer and his family, gathering his wife and children he emerged from the back door and reached the barn just as the bandits broke in the front door.

The bandits looted the house and were preparing to set fire to the barn when the American forces opened fire. Leaving Mrs. Smyser nothing but the nightgown in which she escaped, Capt. Smyser managed to join his troop in time to participate in the battle in which the Mexicans finally were driven from the town.

Capt. F. G. Turner and his wife were in an adobe house just north of the railroad tracks. Mexicans pointed out his dwelling as a house occupied by an American army officer. They remained inside until the troops in camp got into action and scattered the bandits.

Villa dropped his personal papers as he went with his fleeing men back into Mexico. A note found among these, evidently a transcript of an order issued just before the attack read "kill all before a shot was fired. Captain gringos."

Villa's presence is accepted here as discrediting his recent assertions that he was not responsible.

(Continued on Page 8)

GERMANY HAS DECLARED WAR ON PORTUGAL

Battle Raging as Violently as Ever, Germans Making Fierce But Unsuccessful Attacks. Germany has declared war on Portugal. Thus 13 countries now are engaged in the international struggle.

Declaration of war was made by Germany chiefly on account of the recent seizure of German merchantmen interned in Portuguese ports and Portugal's refusal to rescind this action and once more place the ships under the German flag. A long series of alleged breaches of neutrality by the Portuguese government also were contributing factors.

Fighting between the French and the Germans northwest and north of Verdun has in no wise slackened. Particularly violent have been the attacks of the Germans to the north of Verdun, around Douaumont, the village of Vaux and Fort Vaux, but according to Paris, they went for naught.

The Germans were thrown in solid formation against trenches of the French bordering the foot of the ridge dominating Fort Vaux which the latest German report said the Germans had captured the French bordering the foot of the forces with 'enormous losses.'

Northeast of the fort the Germans essayed an assault against the village of Vaux from which they previously had been driven by the French but here also they were repulsed with heavy casualties.

To the west of the Meuse, midway between Bethincourt and the river the French have continued on the offensive in the Corbeaux wood and are officially reported to have driven the Germans from almost all of that important salient.

In the Eastern theatre the Russians at various points have taken the offensive against German advanced positions but Berlin declared they nowhere met with success.

The Russians on the Black Sea coast continue to press toward Turkey's principal port, Trebizond, and also are making progress against the Ottomans in the Persian sector.

The Russian foreign office categorically denies that Turkey has made peace proposals of any kind.

Presiding Elder Browne Is Dead.

Columbia, March 8.—News was received in Columbia yesterday of the death in Kingstree, at 2:10 o'clock yesterday morning of the death of Rev. H. B. Browne, presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal church. He would have been 64 years old had he lived until July. The funeral and interment will take place at Florence at 11 o'clock.

Mr. Browne was for 39 years a member of the South Carolina conference, for 11 years a presiding elder, for 19 years on stations and for 9 years on the circuit. He was a leader in the missionary work of the church and active in its educational interests. A widow and two sons survive him.

BAKER IS SWORN IN AS NEW WAR CHIEF

New Secretary Holds Informal Reception, Meeting Officers Stationed in Washington.

Washington, March 9.—Newton D. Baker was sworn in to-day as Secretary of War. The oath was administered by John Randolph, assistant chief clerk, nearly fifty years in the service.

Mr. Baker was introduced by Secretary Daniels to the officers and to Gen. Scott, chief of staff. Secretary Baker held an informal reception, meeting most of the army officers stationed here.

McFadden Nominated by Wilson.

Washington, March 8.—President Wilson this afternoon sent to the Senate the nomination of V. Brown McFadden for postmaster at Rock Hill.

TO BUILD PACKING HOUSE.

Greenville, S. C., March 9.—A movement has been launched here for the establishment of a packing house on a rather big scale.

GERMAN DRIVE GETTING RESULTS

Makes Advance Over a Front of Nearly Four Miles.

ALSO LOST GROUND

On Another Part of the Line French Drove Teutons Out of Captured Wood.

Fighting of great violence between the French and German infantry has been in progress from Bethincourt northwest of Verdun, to the Meuse, and east of the Meuse from the southern slopes of the Cote de Talou to the Douaumont region—battle fronts aggregating about 10 miles in length. Spirited artillery duels continued along the remainder of the front about Verdun.

A continuation of the German drive northwest of Verdun is declared by Berlin to have netted the German's French positions over a front of nearly four miles and virtually two miles in depth and enabled them to capture 58 officers and 3,277 men. The villages of Forges and Regneville, the heights of Raben and the Cumieres woods fell into the hands of the Germans.

The French did not give up these positions without strong resistance and suffered heavy casualties, especially along the southern fringe of the Cumieres wood.

In the Corbeaux wood, which was occupied recently by the Germans, the French launched a heavy counter-attack and drove the Germans out of the greater part of the position. A German attack with heavy effectives against the French Bethincourt lines was repulsed.

East of the Meuse the Germans have captured the Hardaumont redoubt, over which there has been such heavy fighting, and in the line-straightening maneuver have made progress on a front of about five miles, along the southern slope of the Cote de Talou and the Cote du Poivre and in the Douaumont region.

In the Woivre district southeast of Verdun the Germans have forced the French to loose their hold on outlying positions they held in the village of Fresnes. Here the Germans assert they captured 700 prisoners. In the Meuse hills the French artillery is counter-shelling the guns of the Germans.

Trenches captured by the French in upper Alsace, destructive bombardments of German positions at several points north of the Aisne and the shelling in the forest of the Argonne are told of in the French official communication. Sixteen French aeroplanes have dropped large numbers of shells on the Metz-Sablons station.

BANDITS WERE LED BY VILLA HIMSELF

Prisoners State Outlaw Chief. Vain Vowed Death to All Americans.

Washington, March 9.—A dispatch from Gen. Pershing, forwarded to the war department late to-day through Gen. Funston, stated definitely that the Mexican raiders were commanded by Villa personally.

Gen. Pershing's report says: "Slocum reports by telephone and asks me to repeat that Villa himself led the charge through camp with a force estimated at from 500 to 1,000 men. Eleven Mexicans were killed in camp and twenty-three altogether so far."

"Four enlisted men killed and one officer and seven men wounded. Prisoners state that Villa is very bitter, vowing death to all Americans. Villa retreated into the hills southeast."

"Slocum sent five troops in pursuit with orders not to go more than two miles beyond the border. Slocum thinks he has enough to handle situation and recommends that cavalry be sent if any number of troops are to go after Villa."